Campaign for Curbing Power Thefts

*528. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have launched a Nation wide campaign to curb power thefts;

(b) if so, the details of the campaign; and

(c) to what extent power theft can be curbed by this campaign and how much can be saved in monetary value ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to reduce the commercial loss which occurs as a result of energy thefts, faulty billing and metering, it was resolved in the Power Ministers' Conference held on 26-2-2000 that the State/UT Governments would implement the following measures :—

i. Energy Audit at all levels.

ii. 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001.

iii. Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.

iv. Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system.

(c) With the implementation of these measures, it will be possible to reduce both the technical as well as commercial loss. By eliminating theft and ensuring correct meter reading, it will be possible to improve revenue collection by about Rs. 20,000 crores per annum.

Setting up of NIFT and NID in NER

*529. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the action contemplated for design development of traditional handloom and handicrafts of North-Eastern Region towards making export quality products.

(b) the achievements made, if any, in this direction,

(c) whether it has been proposed to set up a regional centre of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) and National Institute of Design (NID) in the North-Eastern Region;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, how these huge task of design and development are proposed to be achieved ?

The MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) To meet the needs of design development for export quality products in the handloom sector the Government of India is implementing the Scheme for "Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing" (DEPM). Apart from this, regular training and design inputs are also being provided by the Weavers Service Centres. So far under the DEPM Scheme two projects have been sanctioned for the State of Assam and Tripura and one for Mizoram. Two projects have also been sanctioned to North-Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd. (NEHHDC) for this region.

In the Handicrafts sector, a Regional Design and Technical Development Centre has been set up at Guwahati. This Centre has conducted 20 Design Workshops during the last three years, apart from One Design Development Project on 'PHIRIBI' craft at Manipur.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at the present.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) To cope up with the task of Design Development, apart from the Schemes mentioned above, Design inputs are being provided through the scheme of 'Freelance Designer' in the handloom sector. A National Design Centre has also been set up in collaboration with National Institute of Fashion Technology and Handloom Export Promotion Council to provide accessibility to modern designs as well as Design and Colour trends. A similar Design Centre has also been set up for Handicrafts. The NEHHDC is also undertaking various design workshops in the region for the handicrafts sector. With the assistance of UNDP, a Scheme of Design and Technological Upgradation for Cane and Bamboo craft has been launched.